

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06142 111020Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 110816Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5622

S E C R E T AMMAN 6142

EXDIS

FOR UNDERSECRETARY SISCO FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, JO

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 214150

1. SUBJECT REFTEL DID NOT COME UP SEPTEMBER 10 UNTIL NEAR THE END OF MY VISIT WITH KING AND RIFAI IN AQABA (SEPTELS). ON ARRIVAL, KING'S HOUSE GUEST ARNAUD DE BERCHGRAVE PULLED ME ASIDE AND SAID THEY HAD ALL JUST HEARD ON NEWS SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS AND ASKED WHAT WAS GOING ON. I TOLD DE BORCHGRAVE HE SHOULD NOT WORRY, THAT THINGS SEEMED TO BE UNDER CONTROL AND THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS WHICH CHANGED OUR POSITION ON THE HAWK SALE.

2. AT THE END OF OUR CONVERSATION, RIFAI ASKED ME IN KING'S PRESENCE WHAT SECRETARY HAD MEANT IN HIS PRESS STATEMENT, ADDING WITH A LAUGH THAT HE HAD TOLD THE LOCAL PRESS TO PLAY THE QUESTION AS IF THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTLING THE ISSUE IN LIGHT OF JORDAN'S WELL KNOWN POSITION. I SAID THAT SEEMED FINE TO US AND REPEATED THEPOINTS REFTEL FOR THEM. SINCE WE HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF WHERE WE GO NEXT ON THE HAWK SALE (SEPTELS) THEY WERE VERY RELAXED ON THE ISSUES INHERENT IN THE LATTER PORTIONS OF THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE. APPRECIATE YOUR TEMELY CABLE WHICH WAS MOST HELPFUL.

PICKERING

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 06142 111020Z

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Message Attributes

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